

HEARING RE: ALGONQUIN GAS/ISLANDER EAST  
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1       been well documented that during major storms on the east  
2       coast Harmful Algal Blooms occur during sediment  
3       dispersal. And these are cysts that live in the sediment  
4       and when they are rolled up they come to life and form  
5       blooms. These algae are toxic to human beings and when  
6       taken up by shellfish these are no longer fit for human  
7       consumption.

8                       Fourth, but not last, we have worked  
9       extensively in the Branford area in the Farm River marshes  
10      and we have collected evidence that this region may carry  
11      more seismic risk than neighboring regions. The eastern  
12      border fault is the major structural lineament in  
13      Connecticut crosses under the Farm River and our detailed  
14      seismographic studies have shown that there have been  
15      repeated off-sets in that area of several thousand  
16      centimeters over the last two and a half thousand years.

17                      We have --

18                      MODERATOR ROSENBERG: Thank you sir.

19      Please make sure that your entire statement gets into the  
20      record. Sir, please make sure your entire statement gets  
21      into the record. The additional stenographer will be  
22      happy to take that for you. Next speaker, Larry Williams  
23      followed by Carmela Cuomo. Larry Williams, 68 Harbor Edge  
24      Drive, Milford? Carmela Cuomo?

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1 MS. CARMELA CUOMO: Hello. I thank you for  
2 the opportunity to speak to you. My name is Carmela  
3 Cuomo. I'm a research associate -- research scientist at  
4 Yale University in the Department of Geology and  
5 Geophysics and I head up the Undergraduate Marine Biology  
6 program at the University of New Haven.

7 I'm a resident of Hamden, so I too speak to  
8 you not so much as a citizen of Branford, but as a  
9 concerned scientist whose area of expertise is on sediment  
10 geochemistry, benthic-biological coupling to sediment  
11 geochemistry and hypoxia in anoxic environment and I work  
12 especially in Long Island Sound.

13 I have several points and serious doubts  
14 that I would like to discuss with you. I will be  
15 submitting a written statement. I have read the draft  
16 Environmental Impact Statement, the full Environmental  
17 Impact Statement and the subsequent modifications to the  
18 plan that Islander East has submitted and I have some  
19 serious questions about several of the things that are in  
20 there. First of all, the geochemical considerations are  
21 not adequately addressed at all. As Johann Verakamp just  
22 mentioned when you stir up the sediments, the contaminants  
23 that are in the sediments will be released into the  
24 overlying water.

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1                   My concern is that not only will they be  
2 released, but they are in a chemical state called being  
3 reduced, they are in an anoxic environment. Metals, which  
4 Islander East in their few times that they did sample,  
5 their geochemical samplings said that they found evidence  
6 of silver, cadmium, calcium, chromium, copper, manganese,  
7 nickel and lead and zinc. And according to their -- their  
8 EIS does state that they actually were above threshold  
9 levels at the few sites that they did sample. If you then  
10 stir this up and oxygenate it, those metals are going to  
11 come off of many of them. They going to become bio-  
12 available and you're going to have problems.

13                   My second concern the benthic-ecology.  
14 Their benthic-ecologist speaks of recovery times, well, it  
15 is well known by all benthic-ecologists, myself included,  
16 that recovery times are not an absolute science. We have  
17 not actually been able to come up with a qualitative or  
18 even a quantitative model that can adequately address  
19 recovery times in benthic soft grain systems such as you  
20 have in Branford. So we do not know.

21                   The best thing that we can look at is what  
22 happened in Milford where the Iroquois line was laid. 10  
23 years later those systems still have not recovered. So it  
24 is somewhat preposterous to assume that somehow

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1 miraculously it's just going to happen in a year in  
2 Branford.

3 My third point is that I just finished  
4 working on why the lobsters died in western Long Island  
5 Sound and one of the major reasons influencing that seems  
6 to be the fact that the area here is experiencing warming  
7 of the waters, it's a climatic change. We are now  
8 coupling a climatic change to an otherwise already  
9 environmentally stressed system. When you do that, we  
10 don't even understand the environmental stressers on the  
11 Sound adequately enough to understand what's happening.  
12 You couple that to environmental change and it's a whole  
13 new ballgame and that's primarily one of the things that  
14 killed the lobsters.

15 So we're just trying to figure it out for  
16 western Long Island Sound and you're going to take an area  
17 in central Long Island Sound, dig up a whole bunch of  
18 other environmental stressers, couple that with an  
19 environmental forcing function, such as global change, and  
20 you have a mess that no scientist is going to be able to  
21 predict.

22 So I urge you --

23 MODERATOR ROSENBERG: Thank you very much.

24 Next speaker, Richard Donohoe, who will be followed by

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1 George Case.

2 MR. RICHARD DONOHOE: Richard Donohoe, 23  
3 Tweed Road. We've been -- my family and I have been  
4 neighbors of the railroad for about 30 years and I would  
5 like to address the question of safety. As you indicated  
6 Colonel, that is one of the charges that you have to look  
7 into.

8 The question of what happens at the  
9 terminus has been handled very nicely by the  
10 representative of Tilcon, so I would like to simply  
11 address what happens along the train track. Please know  
12 that in the last 15 years in our country we've had 3,184  
13 incidents, accidents, in gas pipelines, which have cost  
14 America the lives of 328 people.

15 Tilcon in it's submission to the  
16 Connecticut Siting Council in 2002 stated the following.  
17 Despite all the precautions employed by Tilcon and the  
18 Railroad to prevent accidents they occasionally occur.  
19 Trains weighting 4,000,000 pounds derail and damage the  
20 track system and surrounding areas. Tilcon Railroads  
21 ongoing maintenance and improvement projects require that  
22 the full width of the right of way be available to allow  
23 the restoration of tracks and other facilities, or to  
24 allow the repair of derailments and spillage resulting

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1 from derailments.

2                   Tilcon requires the unfettered ability to  
3 use the entire width of the right of way in the operation  
4 and maintenance of the rail system. The endemic  
5 construction and maintenance of the pipeline along the  
6 railroad tracks poses serious safety concerns. The right  
7 of way is too narrow to accommodate the railroad operation  
8 and the pipeline. In short, the pipeline and the railroad  
9 cannot safely co-exist on this narrow, single purpose  
10 piece of property. There are better, safer and less  
11 invasive options available to the Applicant for it's  
12 pipeline.

13                   I verified last week that this is still the  
14 position of the Company. Sometime last year the patriots,  
15 who run Islander East, submitted to the Department of  
16 Commerce, that the Department of Commerce, the Federal  
17 Department of Commerce should overcome the Connecticut  
18 Environmental Department (indiscernible) ruling against  
19 their project stating as an issue the question of national  
20 security. The Department of Commerce very wisely bucked  
21 it over to the Department of Defense, the Pentagon. And  
22 on April 29<sup>th</sup> of this year a Mr. Philip Grone, who is the  
23 Deputy Undersecretary of Defense responded to the  
24 Department of Commerce as follows.

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1                    "We have reviewed the appeal and cannot  
2                    conclude that a national defense or other national  
3                    security interest would be significantly impaired if the  
4                    project were not permitted to go forward as proposed."

5                    Now, Mr. Grone reports to Mr. Rumsfeld, who  
6                    reports to President Bush. Don't we have a great country?  
7                    Thank you.

8                    MODERATOR ROSENBERG: Thank you sir. Next  
9                    speaker, George Case will be followed by Gail Kleinman --  
10                   Kineman.

11                   MR. GEORGE CASE: I'm George Case. I live  
12                   in North Branford. I am not a scientist, I am an  
13                   observer. And I observe a clear context of the North  
14                   Branford town government in a property, cash and other  
15                   relationship with Tilcon. Secondly, Tilcon had property  
16                   who's got a building permit for Islander East.

17                   I think we should refer the whole matter to  
18                   the Attorney General for action. Thank you.

19                   MODERATOR ROSENBERG: Thank you sir. Our  
20                   next speaker, Gil Kelman, maybe? 15 Halls Point Road,  
21                   Stony Creek? Bill Horn? Mr. Horn will be followed by  
22                   Loretta Fox.

23                   MR. BILL HORN: I'm Bill Horn. I live at  
24                   246 Pleasant Point Road and I'm speaking tonight as past

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1 President of the Land Trust. I've had a lot to do with  
2 following this pipeline.

3 I'm going to depart from what I'd planned  
4 to say to deal with a couple of things. One that Mr.  
5 Reinemann talked about, the restoration plan that has been  
6 developed through consultation with the Land Trust for  
7 Land Trust properties. Restoration is a tricky word. I  
8 think what we've developed is a plan, which if it works as  
9 we hope will keep the right of way on Land Trust  
10 properties from turning into the weed patch that the  
11 Algonquin right of way in North Branford has turned into.  
12 It's a poster child for invasive species. I hope we can  
13 prevent that from happening.

14 The property will not be restored to what  
15 it is now. We're losing trees that are probably 100 or  
16 150 years old. Even in the work areas where they'll be  
17 allowed to re-grow, I won't see them, my kids won't see  
18 them, my grandkids probably won't see them. We're not  
19 restoring the area.

20 The other thing has to do with Mr.  
21 Brockett's suggestion about a -- I believe he said a  
22 linear walking path. We had actually considered the  
23 possibility of trying to work something like that out.  
24 One of the problems is that, as was pointed out in the



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1 Blue Ribbon Commission report, the pipeline snakes its way  
2 back and forth across a working railroad. It's very  
3 difficult to conceive from a safety point of view how that  
4 would work as a walking path.

5 It also follows the wetlands because it's  
6 easier to go through wetlands than it is to go through  
7 rock. And so you can't have a walking path in sensitive  
8 habitats like wetlands. So as much as we appreciate Mr.  
9 Brockett's suggestion I think it's something that we would  
10 probably not be able to work out. Thank you very much.

11 MODERATOR ROSENBERG: Thank you sir. Next  
12 speaker, Loretta Fox followed by John Wilson.

13 MS. LORETTA FOX: Good evening and thank  
14 you for coming to Branford to listen to our concerns. My  
15 name is Loretta Fox. I live in the Stony Creek section of  
16 Branford at 15 Long Point Road.

17 I would like to address the perception that  
18 the opposition to this pipeline project is strictly a case  
19 of NIMBYism and not in my backyard. I present to you  
20 documents that support the fact that there are other ways  
21 in which the Long Island Sound is receiving support.

22 The DEP has had a Coastal Zone Management  
23 Act for over 20 years. One of the things the state has  
24 implemented is the Long Island Sound License Plate

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1 Project. In fact, one of the early benefits of that is  
2 the Branford Trolley Track Footbridge, which received  
3 \$25,000 because the DEP thought that visitors to the  
4 footbridge could expect to see numerous shorebirds in  
5 tidal estuaries, feeding in the marsh or wading in the  
6 shallow water. This marsh then is the one that is being  
7 impacted.

8 Also in 1989 the Connecticut General  
9 Assembly established the Long Island Sound Assembly. They  
10 receive funds and their purpose is to improve Long Island  
11 Sound. I have copies of their newsletter and their  
12 reports to the State.

13 The USEPA has the Long Island Sound Office.  
14 They have a program called the Long Island Sound  
15 Programs. They partner with New York to try to restore,  
16 protect and enhance Long Island Sound. The Long Island  
17 Sound Foundation, formed in 1962, that group also produces  
18 a -- well, this year -- I know my light's going to turn  
19 red, but this is the book that they provide, which is a  
20 book of resources, which I borrowed from my library  
21 telling every way in which you can work to help Long  
22 Island Sound, all the organizations. And they wanted us  
23 to get involved and that's what we've done.

24 And the last is the U.S. has created the

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1 Oceans Act of 2000. It was entered at the time of the  
2 Clinton administration and they have select members like  
3 Robert Ballard on their committee and they're going to be  
4 doing a report on a three-year study this fall. So I  
5 submit that it seems that there is more than just this  
6 small elite group of people from Branford who care about  
7 the precious resource we call Long Island Sound.

8 MODERATOR ROSENBERG: Thank you ma'am.  
9 Next speaker, John Wilson, he'll be followed by Joseph  
10 Dendis.

11 MR. JOHN WILSON: My name is John Wilson. I  
12 live in Stony Creek. I am speaking to ask that you deny a  
13 permit to Islander East and that you support the  
14 determination by the Connecticut Department of  
15 Environmental Protection. This project is not consistent  
16 with Connecticut's Coastal Shore Management Program. The  
17 proposed Islander East Pipeline is neither indispensable  
18 or necessary as there is an alternative route that is  
19 shorter, safer, and less damaging to the environment.

20 In addition, it is highly questionable that  
21 there is a market demand for their product. The existing  
22 environmental protection laws should not be corrupted to  
23 provide compensation for political contributions by the  
24 energy industry. Imminent domain should not be used to

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1 create terrorist targets. A natural gas pipeline buried  
2 in three feet of dirt is a vulnerable terrorist target.  
3 How is the current administration and it's war on  
4 terrorism going to stop a terrorist with a small shovel  
5 and a radio controlled detonating device?

6 In my opinion, building this pipeline next  
7 to a school should be a criminal offense. Please ensure  
8 that human safety, the Connecticut shoreline and the  
9 waters of the Long Island Sound are preserved and  
10 protected for future generations. Please deny a permit to  
11 Islander East. Thank you.

12 MODERATOR ROSENBERG: Thank you sir. Next  
13 speaker, Joseph Dendas followed by Andrea Wilson.

14 MR. JOSEPH DENDAS: My name is Joe Dendas.  
15 I live on 15 Pleasant Point Road in Branford, which is  
16 about two football fields away from where they plan on  
17 putting the pipeline.

18 As a former member of the U.S. Army Corps  
19 of Engineers I stand before you. I'm not a scientist.  
20 I'm not a doctor. I'm not a teacher. I'm not a tree  
21 hugger. But I can tell you that I don't want this going  
22 through my backyard and I know my neighbors don't. I feel  
23 this is detrimental to the environment for where we live  
24 and I think it is also a safety hazard. I have an eight-

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1 month-old daughter and I know a lot of my neighbors have  
2 families in the area.

3                   Islander East I believe is just a  
4 corporation that's trying to make profits from putting  
5 this pipeline through Long Island Sound and we've had a  
6 lot of people here tonight that are against this. Myself  
7 also. The other thing is that I know being in the Army  
8 Corps of Engineers, and I know that you all there know  
9 that this is not going to be a safe type of endeavor here.  
10 And I hope that you all vote against this and I know that  
11 I'm against this and I know that the people in the town of  
12 Branford and the State of Connecticut are against this.  
13 Thank you.

14                   MODERATOR ROSENBERG: Thank you sir. Next  
15 speaker, Andrea Wilson, to be followed by Chad Lyons.

16                   MS. ANDREA WILSON: Good evening. My name  
17 is Andrea Wilson. I reside in Stony Creek, Connecticut.  
18 Thank you very much for this opportunity to speak to you  
19 this evening.

20                   I am speaking in opposition to the proposed  
21 Islander East Pipeline through Branford. I oppose it for  
22 the following reasons. One, there is a shorter route for  
23 the pipeline. Two, there is a safer route for the  
24 pipeline. It is unconscionable to even consider placing a

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1 high pressure natural gas pipeline adjacent to a school.  
2 The route of the proposed pipeline is past Whitewood  
3 School and takes no measures to protect the children.  
4 This route was chosen because it was more profitable than  
5 using the existing pipeline in Milford.

6 Recently, in Jeffersonville, Kentucky a  
7 natural gas pipeline, similar to the one proposed through  
8 Branford, exploded. In that fire acres were scorched and  
9 because of the pressure in the pipeline it took several  
10 hours for the flames to be brought under control. I would  
11 like you to try to imagine just what would happen to  
12 school children 70 feet away from a ball of fire 1,000  
13 feet in the air that is hot enough to melt sand? In my  
14 opinion, building a high pressure gas pipeline next to a  
15 school cannot be morally justified.

16 Three, there is a less environmentally  
17 damaging route for the pipeline. In conclusion, to date  
18 there has been no proof that the pipeline is either  
19 indispensable or necessary. The proposed pipeline through  
20 Branford is not about eminent domain, it is about greed.  
21 This pipeline is a safety and environmental disaster and  
22 needs to be stopped now. Thank you.

23 MODERATOR ROSENBERG: Thank you ma'am.

24 Next speaker, Chad Lewis, who will be followed by Charlene

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1 Granata.

2 MR. CHAD LYONS: That's Chad Lyons. My  
3 name is Chad Lyons. I'm a long-time resident of Branford  
4 and I've been asked to read a letter here and submit some  
5 documentation for John Barkley, who is a doctor from the  
6 Wildlife Conservation Research Center up at UConn.

7 It says, "I am writing to express my  
8 concern about potential impacts of the Islander East  
9 Pipeline on greater scaup ducks and their habitats in  
10 Branford. I was a long-time resident and recent property  
11 owner in Branford and am very familiar with the proposed  
12 sites. As a professional waterfowl biologist and  
13 Associate Professor of Wildlife Ecology at the University  
14 of Connecticut, I have done extensive research on these  
15 ducks and their habitats in both Pine Orchard and Short  
16 Beach as well as other location. I have read text and  
17 examined maps depicting the location, description and the  
18 Applicant's table of generalized potential environmental  
19 impacts of the proposed Islander East Pipeline via Pine  
20 Orchard and the alternate via Short Beach."

21 There's a lot of technical background, but  
22 I'll go onto his summary.

23 "Pipeline impact. A copy of information  
24 provided by the Applicant indicates there is some

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1 ambivalence as to just what pipeline installation  
2 techniques will be used in any given site. Since massive  
3 granitic bedrock and shallow glacial till overburden are  
4 major components of Kelsey Island and Short Beach,  
5 pipeline installation would seem to pose serious  
6 ramifications for the existing habitat for greater scaup  
7 and their food resources. I believe that any major  
8 disturbance of sediments presents risk to existing or  
9 future scaup and other wildlife food resources in that  
10 embayment.

11 If pipeline installation occurs in colder  
12 months when migration and wintering birds are normally  
13 present, the disturbance from installation and human  
14 activity is expected to keep the birds from accessing  
15 essential food resources, deprive the birds from shelter  
16 afforded by the shoreline during northerly winds. Wind  
17 direction and strength, stage of tide, coastal currents  
18 and occurrence of storms influence where, to what extent,  
19 and what kind of biological effects from site disturbance  
20 will occur on other habitats adjacent to or near the  
21 actual disturbance site."

22 MODERATOR ROSENBERG: Thank you sir.

23 Please submit --

24 MR. LYONS: I'll submit this and some other



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1 documents.

2 MODERATOR ROSENBERG: Thank you sir. Next  
3 speaker, Charlene G-R-A-N-A-T-A, followed by Stacey Rhine.

4 MS. CARLENE GRANATA: Good evening. My  
5 name is Carlene Granata. I live at 50 Winding Forest  
6 Drive in North Branford. I am here tonight as an impacted  
7 landowner and I am opposed to the Islander East Pipeline.

8 This pipeline is proposed to go through my  
9 backyard. We have woods behind our home, which act as a  
10 natural buffer between us and a heavy industrial area. If  
11 the pipeline goes through there will be a 75-foot wide  
12 foot strip of trees cleared. It'll take Islander East 30  
13 minutes to cut down and destroy what took 30 years to  
14 grow. They plan to replace the 80-foot trees with grass  
15 seed. This will expose my home and my family to the  
16 industrial area. Then not only will we be forced to see  
17 and hear all the sights and sounds of Blakesley, Tilcon  
18 Railroad train and other business, all the dirt and dust  
19 which the trees now filter out will come through my yard  
20 and will contribute to health issues as my husband has  
21 asthma.

22 Also, my husband and son are amateur  
23 astronomers and the light intrusion from the company's  
24 nightshifts will eliminate their hobby at home. We're

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1 also members of the Cedar Lake Association. There's 144  
2 families surrounding the lake area who have deeded lake  
3 rights. The neighborhood children play there and swim in  
4 the lake. Cedar Lake feeds Lindsey Lake, also in North  
5 Branford, which feeds a supply pond in Branford. If the  
6 ground is blasted to lay pipeline in the contaminated area  
7 documentation states that the contamination will spread  
8 and may reach Cedar Lake, which will spread to Lindsey  
9 Lake and then to the supply pond. Contamination will kill  
10 plant life, biological life and wildlife in the three  
11 areas.

12 As bad as that would be I am more concerned  
13 about what would happen to our children who swim and play  
14 in the contaminated lake. Will we not know the  
15 contamination has spread until the fish and wildlife die  
16 or until our children get sick? And who will be held  
17 accountable for this travesty?

18 This pipeline route is residential and  
19 invades people's homes and their lives. The devastation  
20 of this poorly planned project will be felt for years to  
21 come. Future generations will inherit it's aftermath, but  
22 once the damage is done the destruction and devastation  
23 cannot be reversed or repaired.

24 This room tonight is filled with very

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1 intelligent and well-informed people. There have been  
2 numerous hearings, meetings and rallies with hundreds and  
3 thousands of people and petition signatures and the  
4 message is always the same, stop the pipeline. How can so  
5 many people speak so well and have such valid concerns of  
6 opposition and Islander East still continues to try to  
7 push this project through? You need to ask yourselves, if  
8 this is such a good thing, why are all of these people  
9 continuing to give of themselves and their time to fight  
10 it? These people are not fighting for a large bottom line  
11 dollar profit, or for large corporate success, or for  
12 political advancement. They are fighting to maintain  
13 their quality of life, the integrity of their homes and  
14 the safety, health and well being of their families.

15 In closing, we are asking you tonight for  
16 your support in helping us to maintain what is valuable to  
17 us and what we have all worked so hard for. Please do not  
18 fall victim to their pressures of big business and  
19 politics. Please do the right thing. Please stop the  
20 pipeline.

21 MODERATOR ROSENBERG: Thank you ma'am.  
22 Next speaker, Stacey -- it's either Rhine or R-U-W-E  
23 maybe? 15 Watershed Road. Ruth Ann Gault, or Gault,  
24 Trumbull, Connecticut?

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1 MS. RUTH ANN WIESENTHAL-GAULT: Hi. It's  
2 Ruth Ann Wiesenthal-Gault. Do you need me to spell it?

3 MODERATOR ROSENBERG: No, no.

4 MS. WIESENTHAL-GAULT: Okay. I'm from  
5 Weston, Connecticut, also a landlocked community. "I'm  
6 here tonight as a proud member of the Long Island Sound  
7 Action Coalition and in my capacity as President of the  
8 Woodlands Coalition. The Woodlands Coalition is a grass  
9 roots organization of more than 5,000 members whose goals  
10 it o protect the environment of Connecticut. Long Island  
11 Sound is a critical part of that environment. There are  
12 many who would bifurcate the uplands from the cross Sound  
13 issues. This must not and cannot be done. Our presence  
14 here tonight is demonstration of that.

15 There are many who -- there are many who  
16 have, because of their love of their State and Long Island  
17 Sound, the ability to speak with knowledge, experience and  
18 great passion. They will in the most articulate way  
19 possible state the facts. Consider me, if you will, the  
20 voice of the many who follow this issue with concern and  
21 yet are not certain what they as individuals can do to  
22 stem the tide of the destruction of our environment for  
23 the sake of the utilities companies.

24 In your consideration of this file we ask

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1       that you answer these questions. Isn't it likely that  
2       construction of the pipeline will cause unacceptable and  
3       irreparable damage to coastal and marine resources in an  
4       area of exceptional marine habitat diversity? Are there  
5       other alternatives, which could provide increased supplies  
6       of gas to Long Island at less environmental cost? Isn't  
7       it the case that the Department of Defense and the U.S.  
8       Army Corps of Engineers have in their comments stated that  
9       there is no national defense or security issues identified  
10      by the Applicant that would in some way be harmed?  
11      Finally, isn't it a reality when I ask, is this an  
12      application based on the imagination of a company who  
13      would create a demand where there is none and misrepresent  
14      the pipeline system?

15                   It has always been the goal of the  
16      Woodlands Coalition to search for balance. As we began to  
17      more closely examine the issues before you tonight we  
18      began to have a better clarify of the position in which  
19      you find yourselves. The district ACOE analysts are on  
20      record pointing out several times that they are required  
21      to deny permits to projects that are not the least  
22      environmentally damaging alternative. FERC acknowledges  
23      that there is a different route that is less damaging.

24                   This leaves you too facing that same

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1 challenge, how to find balance. Islander East is pushing  
2 ahead with their project with the support from FERC and  
3 the Bush/Cheney energy team. That makes your search for  
4 balance all the more difficult. Sometimes the balance is  
5 found in going to the other extreme. Someone must take a  
6 stand to protect the environment, the people and the  
7 Sound. You are in the position to do just that, we look  
8 to you for the positive solution. Thank you."

9 MODERATOR ROSENBERG: Thank you. Next  
10 speaker, Ken Warner to be followed by Jerry Shaw.

11 VOICE: Ken Warner left.

12 MODERATOR ROSENBERG: Ken left. Jerry  
13 Shaw? Kiki Kennedy?

14 MS. KIKI KENNEDY: My name is Kiki Kennedy  
15 and I'm the spokesperson for Connecticut Stop the  
16 Pipeline. I'm also a resident of Branford and a Board  
17 member of two non-profit organizations, Save the Sound and  
18 Connecticut Fund for the Environment. And I want to thank  
19 everyone for coming tonight.

20 I hope that the Corps recognizes that this  
21 has really been a phenomenal turnout considering how  
22 confusing the permit application is as well as the  
23 vacation situation for people during the summer. I also  
24 want to extend our deepest thanks to Commission Arthur

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1 Rocque and his dedicated staff for their diligent work and  
2 thorough review in issuing the second denial of Federal  
3 consistency last week. And thank you to the Corps for  
4 holding this public hearing and allowing us to express our  
5 concerns directly to you.

6 Connecticut Stop the Pipeline is a  
7 grassroots organization founded in 2001 in response to the  
8 Islander East Pipeline Project. As part of the Long  
9 Island Sound Action Coalition our mission is to protect  
10 Connecticut and Long Island Sound from all cross Sound  
11 energy projects. Notably, in October 2002 Connecticut  
12 Stop the Pipeline was awarded an environmental leadership  
13 award from Connecticut Fund for the Environment.

14 Right now I'd like to submit to the record  
15 one copy of the 5,577 signatures collected during our  
16 petition drive, which ran from August 2001 to mid-November  
17 2001. The original petitions are in safekeeping, but can  
18 certainly be made available for inspection by the Corps if  
19 requested. These signatures demonstrate the opposition of  
20 thousands of shoreline citizens to the Islander East  
21 Pipeline Project. Our opposition arises because of strong  
22 concerns about the environment, economic and safety  
23 impacts the pipeline will have on Connecticut and Long  
24 Island Sound. These have been already strongly detailed

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1 here tonight.

2                   There are three other serious concerns that  
3 have arise since our petition drive. Alternatives, we  
4 respectfully request that you the Corps work to ensure  
5 that a complete analysis of all alternative routes,  
6 including non-cross Sound routes is performed. Cumulative  
7 impacts, we're concerned that Islander East has approached  
8 this project in a piecemeal way in order to under-  
9 represent the full environmental impacts of their  
10 preferred route. We believe that upgrades to the  
11 Algonquin system where it connects with Islander East in  
12 North Haven will be required and as such, a part of the  
13 full environmental review by the Corps.

14                   Thirdly, Islander East's treatment of the  
15 data, many requests for more data and information have  
16 gone unheeded for over two years. For example, the final  
17 copy of Dr. Bowen's sedimentation report from 2002 in  
18 June. Second, information has been misrepresented and/or  
19 studies and surveys and testing are flawed or inadequate.

20       Witness Jonathan Waters and the ludicrous assertion that  
21 there are no oysters in the Sound. And information and  
22 real motives are concealed. The best example of that is  
23 the recent offshore dredge disposal permit amendment filed  
24 by Islander with your Agency on July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2003. I will



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1 detail that in my written submission.

2 In summary, I'm frustrated with Islander  
3 East's persistent evasion of our questions, non-disclosure  
4 of information and misrepresentation of data and we're  
5 looking to you, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to hear  
6 our concerns, protect our community and get Islander East  
7 to answer our questions and hopefully deny the Islander  
8 East Pipeline Company their permit. Thank you.

9 MODERATOR ROSENBERG: Thank you ma'am.  
10 Jerry Shaw, who will be followed by Tim Reiner.

11 MR. JERRY SHAW: Yes. My name is Jerry  
12 Shaw. I'm from Stony Creek. I had the privilege of  
13 representing the Connecticut Fund for the Environment on  
14 the Long Island Sound Task Force and I have submitted  
15 under separate cover a copy of the Task Force report,  
16 which I think you'll find of interest, because it  
17 represents a significant effort by the State of  
18 Connecticut in several aspects.

19 Number one, it creates an energy planning  
20 organization. As you know, FERC is not a planner. They  
21 have a statement on their web site that they do not plan,  
22 that they depend upon the proponents of the pipeline or  
23 the energy to provide a sort of a de facto plan based on  
24 economic issues. And what I would like to suggest to the

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1 Corps is that they look at the Task Force results and I  
2 would just like to read a conclusion based on the Task  
3 Force results that I think you will find of interest.

4 "Without the benefits of a prudent  
5 regionally derived energy plan the consideration of any  
6 project that crosses Long Island Sound is premature. We  
7 have been forced by FERC to consider Islander East as part  
8 of a de facto regional energy plan based only on market  
9 forces and the strategic business plans of Duke and  
10 Keyspan. However, absent Connecticut's future resolution  
11 of this issue, and I point again to the Task Force  
12 results, I believe that Long Island Sound Task Force  
13 report conclusions support the efforts of the Army Corps  
14 of Engineers in it's consideration of all system  
15 alternatives which have fewer significant environmental  
16 impacts under provisions of the Clean Water Act."

17 I point out that the Task Force has also  
18 recommended the creation of marine protected zones and I  
19 believe that there was legislation introduced this past  
20 year designating the waters of the Thimble Islands as a  
21 protected zone. Thank you very much.

22 MODERATOR ROSENBERG: Thank you sir. Next  
23 speaker, Tim Raynor followed by Annie Upson.

24 MR. TIM RAYNOR: Wow. Can you imagine

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1 this? U.S. Senators, Congressmen, Congresswomen, State  
2 Senators, State Reps., a First Selectmen, people from Yale  
3 University, some of the brightest minds in the world,  
4 Wesleyan, University of Connecticut. I'm awed. We  
5 started this about two years ago and the reason I got  
6 involved is it's going to effect me personally.

7 I live on Pepperwood Lane with my wife and  
8 my two daughters and in my backyard Bill Horn and his  
9 group, they bought some Land Trust property. So my first  
10 concern is, I'm not ashamed to say at all, not in my  
11 backyard. Why? Safety. Hundreds of people have died  
12 because of pipelines. It's going to be within 50 yards of  
13 my property line.

14 Not in my backyard. Why? I can sit on my  
15 deck, coyotes, deer, turkey, raccoons, skunk, chipmunk, it  
16 all comes through. So I can probably say, not in my  
17 backyard, please. Why? What am I going to leave my  
18 children? What kind of legacy, what type of story, what  
19 kind of lesson am I going to leave my children if I say  
20 it's okay for a limited liability corporation, that's not  
21 based in Connecticut, that has no long-term interest in my  
22 state, in my community, has no long-term interest in my  
23 family to come in and to force their will upon us Yankees?  
24 Boy, did they know what they were getting into a couple

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1 of years ago when they said they were going to do this? I  
2 don't think so.

3 So I'm proud to say, please not in my back  
4 yard. Thank you.

5 MODERATOR ROSENBERG: Thank you sir. Annie  
6 Upson followed by David Perkins.

7 MS. ANNIE UPSON: Good evening. My name is  
8 Annie Upson. I live at 25 Cadwell Place, Branford.  
9 First, I'd like to thank the Corps for listening to our  
10 concerns.

11 I have a personal interest in stopping the  
12 pipeline as the pipeline will go through the property of  
13 my family's in North Haven destroying the property and  
14 decreasing the value of this farmland and open space. I  
15 have three main reasons why I'm against the pipeline.  
16 One, the destruction to the environment and the ecology.  
17 Two, the alternate safer and shorter route being available  
18 and three, the manner in which Islander East approached  
19 the elderly farmers in North Haven to obtain signatures to  
20 allow them to survey the existing gas company pipeline  
21 area for expansion.

22 Representatives from Islander East  
23 approached these elderly people with statements like, the  
24 Federal government has already agreed to this project.

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1 There is nothing you can do about it. This is a done  
2 deal. They also said, you will need to sign or you will  
3 be sued by Islander East and the government. When I  
4 explained to the representative that what she was stating  
5 to my mother was untrue, as there was no permit given to  
6 Islander East from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, she  
7 related that she would have to get back to me and never  
8 contacted myself or my mother.

9 In my opinion, I find the business  
10 practices of Islander East with the community unethical,  
11 unprofessional and immoral, constituting elder abuse and I  
12 thereby request that you deny the permit to Islander East.  
13 Thank you.

14 MODERATOR ROSENBERG: Thank you ma'am.  
15 Next speaker, David Perkins? Joan Burdick?

16 VOICE: She's gone.

17 MODERATOR ROSENBERG: Mary Margaret Visnic  
18 who will be followed by -- I'll get to that later. Ma'am?

19 MS. MARY MARGARET VISNIC: Hi. My name is  
20 Mary Margaret Visnic. My address is 347 Pine Orchard  
21 Road. I'm a resident of Branford and I first want to  
22 thank you for coming tonight. We appreciate it. And I'm  
23 going to read a letter on behalf of the Soundkeeper, Terry  
24 Backer.

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1                    "This letter is to express Soundkeeper,  
2           Incorporated's opposition to the construction of the  
3           Islander East natural gas pipeline across Long Island  
4           Sound. Soundkeeper is a not-for-profit, whose mission is  
5           to enhance the biological, physical and chemical integrity  
6           of the Sound.

7                    The construction of the Islander East line  
8           would cause undue disruption to the Long Island Sound  
9           environment. Existing lines are dicing the Sound's seabed  
10          into ever decreasing grids. There are now 12  
11          telecommunication lines, pipelines and power cables  
12          crossing the Sound. There are also a number of proposed  
13          projects yet to be submitted. The result of these lines  
14          beyond construction impact is slowly eliminating  
15          traditional use of the trust that has been practiced for  
16          200 years.

17                   There are several reasons why you should  
18           not allow Islander East to go forward. First, the health  
19           of the trust is being diminishing along with traditional  
20           public uses. The losses are accruing to the people  
21           unnecessarily through a permit process that has failed.  
22           As mentioned, there exists already a natural pipeline  
23           crossing to Long Island. Use of the Iroquois Pipeline  
24           should be maximized.

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1 Reliability of supply from diverse sources,  
2 such as the Sable Island fields, can be achieved without  
3 Islander East. Instead of crossing the Sound at Branford  
4 an overland pipeline should be constructed to interconnect  
5 the Algonquin interconnect at Brookfield, Connecticut."

6 I'm going to summarize, "That there are  
7 alternatives available to supply Long Island with natural  
8 gas. Islander East is an unwarranted and unwise intrusion  
9 into the Sound and should be rejected. The U.S. Army  
10 Corps of Engineers should honor the State's position and  
11 grant no further approvals until such time as the State  
12 returns with its plan.

13 Sincerely, Terry Backer, Soundkeeper."

14 MODERATOR ROSENBERG: Thank you ma'am.  
15 Next speaker, A. Ferwell, 129 Church Street, Suite 119?  
16 Ma'am, would you please spell your first name for the  
17 record?

18 MS. ANSTRESS FARWELL: My name is Anstress  
19 Farwell. The first name is A-N-S-T-R-E-S-S.

20 MODERATOR ROSENBERG: Thank you.

21 MS. FARWELL: I live in Guilford and I work  
22 in New Haven. I'm President of the New Haven Urban Design  
23 League. We're an organization that's involved with  
24 environmental issues, preservation and new development.

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1 We have done a lot of work on New Haven's waterfront for  
2 it's improvement and development and we work with various  
3 groups that are interested in Long Island Sound and I work  
4 with the Long Island Sound Action Coalition. We work  
5 together in order to try to develop better plans that  
6 fulfill regional objectives.

7 We agree that there's better routes and  
8 ways to provide energy for Long Island and we hope that  
9 you'll consider these alternatives. That's my first very  
10 simple point. And second, there are many ways that the  
11 application submitted by Islander East is incomplete. And  
12 I'll just bring up one example that's been mentioned  
13 already and that's about the horizontal directional drill.

14 There's three points that are very  
15 important that we don't know about here. One is  
16 appropriate borings have not been done to note conditions,  
17 despite what you've heard the \$25,000,000 that's been  
18 spent on developing this project. Where the drill will  
19 emerge is not clear at this point. And an alternative to  
20 the horizontal directional drill has not been presented  
21 for review, just a statement that Islander East will find  
22 an alternative.

23 This lack of information creates a  
24 dangerous scenario and having been involved in the effort



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1 to stop the installation of the Cross Sound cable in New  
2 Haven, I'm concerned that similar mistakes could be made  
3 here and that in an effort to work with the Applicant  
4 discovery of facts will not be complete before decisions  
5 are made. And I hope you understand, I raise these  
6 questions with all respect for the work that you have done  
7 statewide. But I think they're important things that do  
8 need to be raised here.

9 I recognize that this is a difficult issue  
10 and that cross Sound cable has put all parties in an  
11 impossible situation. The cable has compromised the use  
12 and value of the shipping channel in New Haven and it has  
13 probably damaged shellfish beds. I can only say,  
14 probably, because the DEP, which is so inadequately funded  
15 with our State budget crisis, has not been able to  
16 complete a study of shellfish mortality in the effected  
17 area and I hope that that study can be done soon.

18 So we really lack very important  
19 information. So the HDD issue really could be a deja vu  
20 all over again in this kind of issue here in Branford, to  
21 quote Yogi Berra. And I think it's interesting that this  
22 happened in New Haven despite the fact that the Army Corps  
23 issued one of the most restrictive permits in its history.  
24 It still is difficult for you to reinforce. Thank you.

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1 MODERATOR ROSENBERG: Thank you ma'am.  
2 Thank you very much. Next speaker, Matthew Gornan? Long  
3 Island Association on the Cormack Road, Cormack, New York?  
4 Marvin Zimmerman? Ray G-I-N-C-A-U-A-G-E? Who will be  
5 followed by Louis Nargi.

6 MR. RAY GINCAVAGE: Good evening. I'm Ray  
7 Gincavage and I'm an effected landowner, but I'm not going  
8 to address those issues. I'm going to address more Sound  
9 issues, many of which you've heard. Thank you for the  
10 opportunity to talk to you tonight.

11 The Islander East Pipeline would negatively  
12 effect Long Island Sound. It would enter the Sound in the  
13 vicinity of the Thimble Islands, one of the most beautiful  
14 areas of the shoreline between New York and Maine. This  
15 area contains the most fertile shellfish beds in  
16 Connecticut. These beds support an active local fishing  
17 community, both commercial and residential.

18 Islander East has proposed using horizontal  
19 directional drilling to drill under these beds for a  
20 distance of 4,000 feet. This has never been done before.

21 It is not known whether it would damage the bed in other  
22 ways. For example, by drill vibration. Moreover, this  
23 technology is not without risk, as was proven in New Haven  
24 with the release of bentonite, which is used to lubricate

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1 the drill I believe.

2 Also, shellfish beds extend more than 4,000  
3 feet offshore. After 4,000 feet conventional and/or  
4 jetting trenching techniques would be used. These beds  
5 further out would be subject to the same devastation that  
6 was experienced in Milford 10 years ago when the Iroquois  
7 Pipeline cross the Sound. Many of the Milford beds have  
8 still not recovered. Initially lobstermen in the area  
9 were vehemently against this project until Island East  
10 bought their silence. The health of the Sound is a public  
11 resource, not a private one. The right to damage it  
12 should not be something that can be bought by paying off a  
13 segment of a workforce that makes a living in it.

14 Why would Islander East pay these millions  
15 of dollars to buy silence if they were not indeed damaging  
16 a resource? Several years ago the Cross Sound Cable  
17 Project looked at this very route and abandoned it  
18 partially because of the environmental sensitivity of the  
19 area. Even FERC has admitted there's a route to use,  
20 which is less damaging to the environment, yet Islander  
21 East has stubbornly refused to consider this route. I  
22 submit this is because of the economics of that route are  
23 less favorable to Islander East.

24 Our resources should not be damaged to line

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1 Islander East's pockets. Let them spend the extra money  
2 and perhaps give up some profit potential to use a route  
3 that is environmentally preferable. FERC said there is a  
4 better way. The Connecticut DEP said the proposed route  
5 was unacceptable. The Branford Blue Ribbon Committee  
6 pointed out flaws. The company that owns the railroad  
7 expressed concerns about the pipeline and the railroad  
8 existing safely together. Yet as recently as last week,  
9 after DEP's second denial of the proposed project John  
10 Sheriden, a spokesman for Islander East was quoted as  
11 saying, they are still moving forward with this project.  
12 What's wrong with this picture? It's quite clear that the  
13 Islander East project needs to go elsewhere.

14 MODERATOR ROSENBERG: Thank you sir. Next  
15 speaker, Louis Nargi, he'll be followed by Charles  
16 Rothenberger.

17 MR. LOUIS NARGI: My name is Louis Nargi,  
18 79 Stony Creek Road, Branford. I'd like to go on record  
19 saying that I oppose this project. I'm an effected  
20 landowner, as matter of fact, I'm very effected. Okay? I  
21 live on a half acre of land right next to the railroad  
22 tracks. This pipeline will destroy my septic system. And  
23 I did a perc test that Islander East paid for, they forced  
24 me to do it. I told them my septic system couldn't be

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1 moved in another area, but they forced me to do it, so I  
2 did it. The result of that test is that the septic system  
3 cannot be moved off their proposed easement because  
4 there's no more land reserve, there's too much ledge in  
5 the area and what's left is just not enough to put a new  
6 septic system. Okay?

7 This destroys my septic system. Okay? At  
8 least three feet of their permanent easement is in my  
9 house. As a matter of fact it's in my bedroom. Okay?  
10 Less than 20 feet there's a granite ledge that's going to  
11 have to be blasted out. What am I supposed to do?  
12 Evacuate my house when this happens when they blast it  
13 out?

14 And it's probably 15 feet from the railroad  
15 tracks. Do you think it might do damage to the railroad  
16 tracks? So I guess my property will have to be condemned.

17 Now, I bought this house three years ago. Six months  
18 after I bought this house I started getting notices and  
19 letters. I told Islander East I had a septic system. You  
20 know what they did? They ignored it. They didn't even  
21 know I had a septic system. That's how thorough they are.

22 Okay?

23 You got -- you're dealing with a bunch of  
24 people that created rolling blackouts in California so

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1       they could raise rates on those people. And we're still  
2       dealing with these people two years later. This is a bad  
3       place for this pipeline. They even know it. Everybody in  
4       Branford, Milford, everybody in Connecticut knows it as  
5       you heard here tonight.

6                       So I'm opposed to this pipeline and I'm  
7       sure everybody else is. Thank you very much.

8                       MODERATOR ROSENBERG: Thank you sir. Next  
9       speaker, Charles Rothenberger, followed by L-U-I-K-D-I-C-  
10      O-C-E-O, maybe? Sir?

11                      MR. CHARLES ROTHENBERGER: Good evening.  
12      My name is Charles Rothenberger and I thank you for the  
13      opportunity to present some of these comments on behalf of  
14      the Connecticut Fund for the Environment.

15                      "CFE is a Statewide legal advocacy  
16      organization based in New Haven, which is dedicated to  
17      protecting Connecticut's environment and preserving the  
18      natural resources of the State. The issue presently  
19      before you is whether to issue a permit for a proposed  
20      pipeline project that will have serious environmental  
21      consequences on tidal wetlands in Connecticut and on water  
22      quality and shellfish habitat in Long Island Sound. CFE  
23      urges you to deny the permit application.

24                      The seriousness of the potential

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1 environmental consequences that would result if this  
2 proposal is approved can be seen in the unanimity with  
3 which Connecticut's public officials have responded to  
4 protect the Sound from such projects. Rarely has any one  
5 issue found such broad agreement among the various State  
6 agencies charged with protecting Connecticut's  
7 Environment. The Governor and the General Assembly have  
8 independently established general moratoriums on cross-  
9 Sound energy pipeline projects. And in the case of the  
10 specific submission before you, both the Attorney  
11 General's office and the Department of Environmental  
12 Protection have raised serious concerns about the proposed  
13 project.

14 On October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2000 the Connecticut DEP  
15 determined for the first time that the pipeline project  
16 was inconsistent with Connecticut's Coastal Zone  
17 Management plan. And just last week they reaffirmed that  
18 denial. The DEP expressed particular concern about the  
19 proposed use of horizontal directional drilling. The  
20 Department noted that the releases of bentonite drilling  
21 fluid routinely occur in at least 50 percent of all such  
22 projects. Shellfish populations are particularly at risk  
23 under this project because the proposed drilling corridor  
24 will pass directly below 2000 linear feet of shellfish

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1       lease beds. Despite the very real danger of such a  
2       bentonite release however, the applicant has consistently  
3       failed to provide any plans related to monitoring and/or  
4       mitigation of such releases.

5                       These are not problems without solutions  
6       however. The DEP specifically found that there was at  
7       least one viable alternative to the current proposal that  
8       would significantly reduce the adverse environmental  
9       impacts of the pipeline.

10                      MODERATOR ROSENBERG: Thank you sir.

11                      MR. ROTHENBERGER: I'll submit the rest.

12                      MODERATOR ROSENBERG: Thank you. Next  
13       speaker, I believe L-O-U-I-K? Second name, D-I-C-O-C-E-O,  
14       900 Chapel Street? No. Okay. Bruce Walker, who will be  
15       followed by Peter Brown.

16                      MR. BRUCE WALKER: May name is Bruce Walker  
17       and I live in New Haven, but I work in Branford. I work  
18       at Whitewood School.

19                      Whitewood School is within feet of the  
20       railroad line and I'm concerned about the safety of  
21       upwards of 100 students, plus roughly 18 of my friends and  
22       colleagues. A number of years ago there was a similar  
23       type of gas line that ran under the right of way of a  
24       railroad line in California. After a derailment and the



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1 subsequent clean-up, during the clean-up they  
2 inadvertently compromised the integrity of the pipe and  
3 subsequent to that the pressure of the pipe blew through  
4 the part that had been compromised and it caused a  
5 conflagration that wiped out an entire neighborhood.

6 Why it seems like a good idea to put a  
7 pipeline next to a railroad line boggles my mind. If I  
8 was a cynic I might think it was corporate greed. For  
9 once, we should let common sense prevail over corporate  
10 greed and stop the pipeline. Please deny this petition.

11 MODERATOR ROSENBERG: Thank you sir. Next  
12 speaker, Peter Brown followed by John Frank.

13 MR. PETER BROWN: Hi. I'm Peter Brown.  
14 I'm a summer resident of Pot Rock Island in the Thimble  
15 Islands and I'm a resident of 2 Hart Avenue in the Pine  
16 Orchard neighborhood of Branford.

17 I'm speaking tonight for the folks that  
18 summer on the Thimble Islands. There's about 100 families  
19 that the Thimble Islands Association represents. Senator  
20 Dodd mentioned in his written statement that Long Island  
21 Sound was the jewel of Connecticut and the Thimble Islands  
22 are certainly its string of pearls. And we very much ask  
23 that you folks deny the application.

24 Our Association unequivocally, unanimously

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1 objects to the pipeline for five basic reasons. One,  
2 environmental damage during the construction process.  
3 Two, the environmental impact while the pipe is laying on  
4 the seabed, we're concerned that the delicate lobster  
5 population will be further impacted. Even in natural  
6 circumstances it's been proven to be very delicate.  
7 Three, safety. They've talked about the rail line,  
8 they've talked about the barge canal. One thing no one  
9 has mentioned is corrosion. We're very concerned that  
10 this pipe in the salt environment will certainly corrode  
11 and I think you'll find many of the pipeline disasters  
12 have had a component of corrosion, and we're concerned  
13 about that.

14 Four, there's no public benefit. Not one  
15 Thimble Island will have access to this gas, although the  
16 pipeline will be some 500 feet away on the western side of  
17 our properties. And we really are counting on the Army  
18 Corps of Engineers to protect our pearls. Please do so.  
19 Thank you.

20 MODERATOR ROSENBERG: Thank you sir. Next  
21 speaker, John Franks who will be followed by Patrick Low.

22 MR. JOHN FRANK: My name is John Frank and  
23 I'm Chairman of the Norwalk Shellfish Commission. So this  
24 is not a not in my backyard kind of thing. "This

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1 application is for an unnecessary shortcut across  
2 Connecticut and Long Island Sound to improve a competitive  
3 market position and deliver gas from Canada to Long  
4 Island, New York.

5 Applicants already sell gas there. No  
6 benefit in Connecticut is anticipated. No reason is given  
7 to destroy 271 acres at least of Long Island Sound bottom,  
8 most of it shellfish habitat when an upland route is  
9 already established. There is existing pipeline on Long  
10 Island owned by Keyspan that they intend to connect to.  
11 This is really a request for a subsidy for Islander East  
12 investors.

13 This line across public Trust Land under  
14 the Sound could save them money at enormous environmental  
15 cost. We know they can bury utilities with very little  
16 environmental impact on dry land. The record burying  
17 utilities underwater has been terrible. Look at Cross  
18 Sound Cable, or the Iroquois Pipeline, or the leaking  
19 cables from Norwalk to Northport. This is only one of  
20 several proposals, all based on some destruction of public  
21 Trust Land. The damage done to shellfish habitat is  
22 always total and permanent.

23 Connecticut Department of Environmental  
24 Protection was right when they denied this application

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1 twice. They found it caused unacceptable environmental  
2 impacts and pointed out that it was not the only way to  
3 get the gas to Long Island. The damage done when Iroquois  
4 laid their pipeline, which is not being expanded, should  
5 never be forgotten. The scars are still there. The  
6 shellfish are gone forever.

7 The floor of the Sound must be protected  
8 from further destructive commercial development. A major  
9 industry in Connecticut is at stake. Please deny this  
10 application.

11 MODERATOR ROSENBERG: Thank you sir. Next  
12 speaker, Patrick Low? Elizabeth Dock who will be followed  
13 by Naomi Low.

14 MS. ELIZABETH DOCK: My name is Elizabeth  
15 Dock. I live at 249 Pleasant Point Road in Branford.

16 The proposed pipeline through Branford  
17 effects me personally three ways. First, my home looks  
18 over a healthy salt meadow not more than 1,000 feet to the  
19 northeast from a land to water entry site of the pipeline.

20 And I believe the prevailing currents will bring  
21 sediments, including drilling materials and heavy metals,  
22 directly under this marsh, a breeding site for fish,  
23 shellfish and birds. I'm a one-third owner of an adjacent  
24 sand beach, which will be similarly impacted.

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1                   Active commercial harvesting of shellfish  
2     in the pipeline area is visible from my home and the known  
3     damage, if we learned from the Milford site, will render  
4     these sites unusable for years. Connecticut is  
5     justifiably proud of it's shellfishing industry and to  
6     allow an unproven drilling project to tunnel under and  
7     through these beds would be shameful.

8                   Just during the break I spoke with Dr.  
9     Sally Richards, a Yale Marine Scientist. And she told me  
10    that sound levels during drilling at the site is probably  
11    going to exceed 80 decibels. She didn't know how far  
12    these levels would be transmitted underwater, but that  
13    certainly is something that needs to be taken into  
14    consideration, especially when we are talking about the  
15    known seals that are in the area.

16                  This project is only for the gain of  
17    Islander East and it's parent companies. I urge that  
18    common sense prevail, public trust be honored, that the  
19    fragility of this region recognized and that this damaging  
20    route be rejected by the Army Corps. Thank you very much.

21                  MODERATOR ROSENBERG: Thank you ma'am.  
22    Next speaker, Naomi Low? Nick Christmal? Is he here?  
23    Charles Johnson?

24                  MR. CHARLES JOHNSON: Good evening. I'm

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1 Charles Johnson and I live at 2 Juniper Point Road in  
2 Branford and I thank you for hanging in here with us so  
3 late this evening.

4 "Tonight I appear before you in two  
5 capacities. First, I come to you as the President of the  
6 Juniper Point Association, representing 21 home or  
7 landowners in the Juniper Point section of Pine Orchard in  
8 Branford. So in effect, this is about our backyard. This  
9 project directly impacts our residents in that it skirts  
10 the boarder of our property, while directly impacting the  
11 wetlands and offshore assets that we all enjoy on a daily  
12 basis.

13 The potential addition of a high-pressure  
14 gas pipeline on an active railroad right-of-way also adds  
15 a significant element of risk to our residents, which is  
16 clearly not attractive and certainly not consistent with  
17 this residential area. In addition, it's construction  
18 would introduce substantial noise pollution for an  
19 extended period of time to our residents. Our residents  
20 ask you urgently to reject this proposal.

21 Second, I come before you as a citizen and  
22 a businessman. I am fortunate to lead a publicly owned  
23 corporation, which has earned prominence in it's own  
24 markets. Therefore, I am most sensitive to the need for

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1 adequate energy resources for our citizens without which  
2 we cannot continue to build a prosperous society.  
3 However, I strongly believe that good business leaders  
4 must bring balanced values to our desire for growth and  
5 profit, while still providing respect for the natural  
6 resources we enjoy.

7 These ideas are not mutually exclusive as  
8 sometimes implied by one side or the other.  
9 Unfortunately, the basic premise of the proposed pipeline  
10 project does not meet a balanced values test.

11 In short, I urge you to disallow the  
12 proposals before you that would enable this project to go  
13 forward or encourage it on the proposed site. We live in  
14 a great country and hopefully all of us will vote our  
15 conscience at the next general election for officials to  
16 lead our State and National affairs. I encourage all  
17 Connecticut citizens to consider the position of  
18 candidates on the pipeline project as an important voting  
19 criterion as they approach the polls. We cannot allow  
20 this type of project to rule -- project thinking to rule  
21 the day. Good governance and our great shoreline depend  
22 on it. The very weight of public outcry demands it.

23 MODERATOR ROSENBERG: Thank you sir. Next  
24 speaker, Paul H-U-A-N-G? Mark DeFelice, it looks like D-E

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1 capital F-E-L-I-C-E? Maria Stockmal? To be followed by  
2 Sarah Richards.

3 MS. MARIA STOCKMAL: Hi. My name is Maria  
4 Stockmal. I represent over 300 members of the New Haven  
5 Bird Club of which I'm the Conservation Committee  
6 Chairperson.

7 We do support Stop the Pipeline and it's  
8 concerns. In addition, we are concerned about  
9 disappearing habitat that are friendly to birds. We have  
10 disappearing species in Connecticut and we have a decrease  
11 in population of some species. Our pass time is becoming  
12 harder to find and it's also becoming a skill.

13 I know the pipeline runs through an area  
14 called the Green Corridor, which is a migratory stop for  
15 birds. I don't know if the revision still has an impact  
16 on that area, but whether it does or not we need to take a  
17 greater responsibility when we develop or interrupt the  
18 environment because we're probably losing more than we're  
19 gaining.

20 MODERATOR ROSENBERG: Thank you ma'am.  
21 Next speaker, Sarah Richards? Mike G-U-A-R-N-I-E-R-E? 11  
22 Pleasant Drive. Linda Lantz, L-A-N-T-Z, followed by John  
23 Lantz.

24 MS. LINDA LANCZ: Good evening. My name is



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1 Linda Lancz and I am a Board member of the Ecological  
2 Health Organization, whose purpose is to monitor any  
3 projects that are proposed that impact the environment. I  
4 was -- I'm currently living in Guilford, but I was born in  
5 Branford and I am extremely familiar with all the impacted  
6 areas on the shoreline that are currently being proposed  
7 for the pipeline.

8 I don't know how anybody can seriously  
9 consider this proposal. It absolutely boggles my mind  
10 that it has been even given such serious consideration and  
11 it has taken two years out of the lives of all the people  
12 that you see here tonight who have had to waste their time  
13 on this kind of foolishness. Now, Connecticut has been  
14 through this before with another proposal for the Amtrak  
15 train, where we saw all of Connecticut was united against  
16 that foolishness and after years of wearing down the  
17 opposition we got it anyway. And this is my concern about  
18 what we're going through again and again.

19 Why are we here tonight? I would like to  
20 know and I am sorry that no one on the Army Corps of  
21 Engineers has addressed the issue of why this hearing is  
22 even being held after DEP has denied this proposal. This  
23 is out of order as far as I understand it. But I am  
24 hoping somebody will speak to that.

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1                   But what I want to talk about is the  
2           process of why we are here. I understand it's because the  
3           administration has put pressure on you and put you in the  
4           hot seat to try to reconsider something that has been  
5           totally rejected by everybody. There is no support for  
6           this proposal. In fact, there is such active opposition  
7           as represented here tonight that it should not even be  
8           considered, it should be dropped. Now, what we should do  
9           is look for something that will give a permanent  
10          injunction against this proposal so that we don't have to  
11          come out here and waste our time night after night with  
12          this kind of situation.

13                   It is a waste. It is a threat. And I'm  
14          beginning to think that American democracy means that all  
15          the people have the right to speak and vote and organize  
16          and the people who are supposed to be leading this country  
17          have the right to ignore us.

18                   MODERATOR ROSENBERG: Thank you ma'am.  
19          Next speaker, John Lancz.

20                   MR. JOHN LANCZ: John Lancz. I'm a  
21          Congregational minister, former resident of Stony Creek,  
22          current resident of Guilford. And I hold in my hand a  
23          publication by Islander East that tells me that they  
24          strive to be a good neighbor. I wish that were true and